



## Spring 2016



### 2016 Calendar Events

OCRA will continue to aid communities in shaping and achieving their vision for economic success both now and in the future. Mark your calendars with all of the important dates listed [here!](#)

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#### Grant Writing Basics (Grant Writing 101) Webinar

May 24

9:00 - 11:00 a.m. EDT

This module will provide participants with critical grant writing information they can use to prepare successful applications. To register, email [joy@hpqnetwork.com](mailto:joy@hpqnetwork.com).

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#### Building Local Capacity for Planning and Action Webinar

June 17

9:00 - 11:00 a.m. EDT

Participants will learn how to profile community assets, opportunities and challenges while

## A Note from the Executive Director

Hello to all of our partners and friends; what an exciting year it has been already!

Thank you to everyone who attended our four regional conferences throughout the state to learn about resources and programs offered through OCRA.

Additionally, we have recently launched a series of capacity building workshops as well as a new program, the Historic Renovation Grant Program.

I encourage everyone to take a deeper dive into this quarterly spring newsletter to learn about OCRA's new initiatives and upcoming events.

Our OCRA team is committed to working collaboratively to create thriving hometowns that are positioned for economic success both now and in the future.

If you have questions, I encourage you to [contact us](#) or to view a full listing of OCRA's community liaisons, please click [here](#).

In Partnership,

Bill Konyha  
OCRA Executive Director

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## 2016 Regional Conferences

Thank you to everyone who attended one of OCRA's 2016 Regional Conferences. OCRA staff appreciate the time that over

incorporating the dreams and expectations of stakeholders. To register, email [joy@hpqnetwork.com](mailto:joy@hpqnetwork.com).

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### Coalition Building/Building Partnerships Workshop

July 8

10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. EDT

Indiana Government Center South,  
Indianapolis

Workshop will emphasize the comprehensive nature of revitalization and the need to develop strong and lasting partnerships. Participants will learn about effective partnership structures. Register [here](#).

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### Indiana Main Street (IMS) Community Exchanges

If you are interested in hosting one of four IMS community exchanges for 2016, please complete the [survey](#) by May 16th. The exchanges will include lessons learned, best practices and trainings to implement into your community.

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### Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Dates

CDBG Round 1 - Applications are due June 10.

CDBG Round 2 - Applications will open on June 20, which will include Workforce Development and Main Street Revitalization Programs.

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### Recently Recognized

OCRA continues to assist Indiana's communities in shaping and achieving their vision for economic development. See the latest list of counties, cities and towns that have been assisted through our programs.

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### Downtown Enhancement Grant Recipients

City of Aurora: Main Street Aurora

City of Columbia City: Columbia Main Street Organization

City of Peru: Rediscover

400 community leaders took out of their days to learn about our capacity building programs and resources.

Also, a special thanks to Lt. Governor Eric Holcomb for being a champion of rural Indiana and being the keynote at each of the conferences. With most of Indiana's cities and towns being rural, it's important to have a leader who works to ensure our hometowns are attractive places to live, work and play.



*Lt. Governor Eric Holcomb addresses the crowd at the 2016 OCRA Regional Conferences.*



*OCRA staff pose for a photo with Lt. Governor Eric Holcomb at the WestGate 2016 OCRA Regional Conference.*



Downtown Peru

City of Seymour: Seymour Main Street

Town of Veedersburg:  
Veedersburg Revitalization Association

Town of Vevay: Vevay Main Street

#### Place Based Investment Fund

Town of Cicero: Cicero Pier

Town of Daleville: Daleville Old Town Junction

City of LaPorte: Young Life Plaza  
618

Town of Nashville: Village Green Revitalization

#### Indiana Site Certified

Floyd County

Tipton County

Warren County



OCRA Executive Director Bill Konyha poses for a picture at Tipton County's Site Certified announcement.

#### Meet the OCRA Executive Office Team

OCRA staff members share effective grant writing tips with community leaders that attended one of the 2016 OCRA Regional Conferences.

## Community Performance Indicators

Data indicates that 54 of Indiana's 92 counties are in absolute population decline. This means that the outward migration exceeds the inward migration by margins significant enough that the net gain between annual births and deaths is insufficient to make up the difference. In some counties the deaths already exceed births. In addition, 24 counties are growing at a rate slower than the country as a whole and are classified as being in relative decline. At best the current growth rate casts them as neutral.

Healthy communities share certain characteristics and these characteristics provide CPIs that Indiana communities can benchmark to gauge their vibrancy. These characteristics should guide community discussions and plans should be developed to encourage them.

- Assessed Value (AV) - The total dollar value assigned to all real property and improvements and personal property subject to taxation.
- Per Capita Income - mean money income received in the past 12 months computed for every man, woman, and child in a geographic area. It is derived by dividing the total income of all people 15 years old and over in a geographic area by the total population in that area
- Population Growth - change in the population, resulting from a surplus (or deficit) of births over deaths and the balance of migrants entering and leaving a geographic area.
- Educational Attainment - change in the educational status of each community by age and by level of education completed.
- Public School Enrollment - total number of children (k-12) enrolled in public schools in a geographic area.

To learn more about the CPIs, click [here](#) or visit <http://www.in.gov/ocra/cpi.htm>.



Lt. Governor Eric Holcomb and OCRA Executive Bill Konyha participate in local Community Performance Indicators discussion at the OCRA 2016 Regional Conference.



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## Indiana Main Street by the Numbers



### 2015 IMS NUMBERS:

1,662 Net New Jobs Created

571 Building and Façade Renovations

284 New Businesses Added

\$51.2MM in Public Investment in Downtowns

\$118.8MM in Private Investment in Downtowns

229.5K Volunteer Hours Contributed

Indiana Main Street (IMS) encourages the revitalization and restoration of downtown areas in Indiana cities and towns. For more information on the OCRA program, click [here](#).

## New Historic Renovation Grant Program

OCRA recently announced they are now accepting Letters of Intent (LOIs) for the new [Historic Renovation Grant Program](#) (HRGP), which is designed to preserve and rehabilitate historic properties to further incentivize downtown economic development.

"OCRA continues to invest our time and resources into creating hometowns that are positioned for economic growth," said OCRA Executive Director Bill Konyha. "Through OCRA's Historic Renovation Grant Program, communities have the opportunity to enhance their existing assets and thus produce a quality of place that continues to attract businesses, visitors and residents."

The Indiana General Assembly approved legislation allocating \$1.2 million in grant funding for the program, to be administered by OCRA. Applications for the HRGP, previously known as the Historic Tax Credit Program, will be reviewed by the [Department of Natural Resources](#) (DNR) [Division of Historic Preservation and Archeology](#) (DHPA) to ensure submissions meet the [Secretary of the Interior's Standards](#).

Applicants located within an [Indiana Main Street](#) or non-entitlement community have the opportunity to apply for project funding between \$10,000 and \$100,000 at a maximum request of 35% of the total eligible project cost. Eligible applicants include: individual, partnership, firm, association, joint venture, limited liability company, corporation or non-profit organizations for affordable housing projects.

Interested property owners, who meet established [eligibility requirements](#), must submit an LOI by 4:00 p.m. EDT on Friday, May 6, 2016 to:

317.232.8895



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Office of Community and Rural Affairs  
Attn: Adam Moschell  
One North Capitol, 6th Floor  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

For more information about the Historic Renovation Grant Program,  
[contact your regional Community Liaison](#) and visit OCRA's [HGRP webpage](#).



## Stellar Communities Designation Program

Launched in 2011, the Stellar Communities Designation Program is a multi-agency partnership designed to recognize Indiana's smaller communities that have identified comprehensive community and economic development projects and activities as well as next steps and key partnerships.

Through the annual designation, the Stellar Communities Designation Program provides resources for transformative quality of place community improvements by utilizing previous planning efforts, leveraging existing assets, fostering regional investments and stimulating continued growth for long-term relevance.

### Stellar 2016 Finalists Announced

Lt. Governor Eric Holcomb announced the six communities who are the division 1 and division 2 finalists for the 2016 Stellar Communities Designation Program (SCDP).

"Cities and towns across Indiana continue to benefit from a strong business climate that makes them attractive places to live, work, and play, and the Stellar Communities Designation Program remains an important catalyst fostering local economic growth," said Holcomb. "I congratulate this year's six finalists for taking this pivotal step of identifying key projects in line with their assets and visions for the future. I look forward to visiting each of the finalist communities over the next few months to see firsthand the state and local collaborations helping our hometowns thrive well into the future."

Finalist communities are separated into a division based on their population. division 1 is for communities with populations 6,000–50,000 and division 2 is for populations 5,999 and below.

Ten communities submitted proposals for the 2016 SCDP. After evaluating the letters of interest, the top six communities were chosen as finalists.

### 2016 Stellar Communities Designation Program Finalists:

Division 1:  
City of Rushville (Rush)  
City of Shelbyville (Shelby)  
City of Warsaw (Kosciusko)

**Colette Childress**  
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**Corrie Scott**  
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### Contact Us

To connect with OCRA staff,  
visit the [Contact Us](#) page on our  
website.

### Success Stories

We would love to hear from you!  
To share success stories that  
are the result of OCRA and local  
collaborations, email  
[info@ocra.in.gov](mailto:info@ocra.in.gov).

### OCRA Programs

Click on the titles below to  
learn about each OCRA  
program.

[Community Development Block  
Grants](#)

[Community Readiness Initiatives](#)

[Comprehensive Site  
Redevelopment Program](#)

[Disaster Recovery](#)

[Downtown Enhancement Grant](#)

[Historic Renovation Grant  
Program](#)

[Hometown Collaboration Initiative](#)

[Indiana Main Street](#)

Division 2:  
Town of Corydon (Harrison)  
Town of Culver (Marshall)  
City of Union City (Randolph)

As finalist communities, each will receive a planning grant to either create or build upon existing local Strategic Investment Plans, detailing projects, partnerships and proposed sources of funding. Site visits will then be conducted by the Stellar Team which is comprised of representatives from the partnering agencies who follow a standard agenda and set of questions. Later this summer, one community from each division will be named a 2016 Stellar Communities Designee.



## Register Today: Help Shape the Future of the Arts in Indiana

Be part of the conversation and help the Indiana Arts Commission better serve the arts in our state. Join in one (or more) of our upcoming Web Cafe sessions tailored to artists, community leaders (educators, elected officials, community volunteers, representatives of business and professional organizations), and organizations (arts and arts providing).

The free, one-hour sessions will enable the Arts Commission to gather feedback on strategic planning themes. The Web Cafe schedule will be:

- **Community Leaders May 10, 2016 at 11:00 a.m. (EDT)**
- **Organizations May 11, 2016 at 11:00 a.m. (EDT)**
- **Artists - May 11, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. (EDT)**

There are two ways to take part in the Web Cafes. Join the conversation live with others from your community at a Web Cafe meeting location nearest you, or via computer from the comfort of your own home, office or library on a computer with Internet connection.

For more information, including locations and answers to frequently

[Indiana Site Certified](#)

[Joint Land Use Study](#)

[Main Street Revitalization Program](#)

[Place Based Investment Fund](#)

[Planning Grant](#)

[Public Facilities Program](#)

[Wastewater and Drinking Water Program](#)

[Workforce Development Program](#)

asked questions visit [www.in.gov/arts/2835.htm](http://www.in.gov/arts/2835.htm) or contact Paige Sharp at 317-232-1279 or email [psharp@iac.in.gov](mailto:psharp@iac.in.gov).

## In case you missed it..OCRA on Social Media

For all of the latest updates on social media follow us on [Twitter](#), like us on [Facebook](#).



OCRA Indiana @OCRAIndiana · Feb 24

Learn how OCRA Community Liaisons can serve your community! [ow.ly/YHFy9](http://ow.ly/YHFy9)



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Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs

Published by Hootsuite · March 11 · 4

There's more to the Stellar Communities Designation Program than being named a "Stellar Designee." It's about community collaboration and creating a strategic investment plan that allows for economic and community growth. Congratulations to Decatur for implementing positive changes that will lead their community to prosperity both now and in the future. <http://ow.ly/Zm7ko>



"We want you know how valuable we believe the Stellar Communities experience has been. We know who we are, we know what we're about. We have a number of community development projects that are ready for construction. And, our citizens have proven their support with more than \$650,000 to date pledged through our Greater Decatur Capital Campaign."

"We recognize that going through the Stellar Communities process has positioned us to move forward with our strategic Community Investment Plan, in particular when it comes to being ready to submit some of our projects for Regional Cities funding."

"OCRA has endorsed our plans publicly, and it's time for us to work on that plan. We look forward to transformational change in 2016 for the City of Decatur. Again, we value our continued relationship with OCRA, and look forward to continuing our partnership. Thank you for your guidance, encouragement and support."

Mayor Kenneth Meyer



You Retweeted

**Eric Holcomb** @LGHolcomb · Apr 1

On the road for @OCRAIndiana NE Regional Conference- I love connecting w/people working to better their communities!



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OCRA Indiana @OCRAIndiana · Apr 7

100+ community leaders have joined us to learn about resources & programs OCRA has to offer. [ocra.in.gov](http://ocra.in.gov)



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OCRA Indiana @OCRAIndiana · Apr 8

In case you missed it - Santa Claus, IN named one of America's friendliest towns. Hoosier hospitality at its best! [goo.gl/uYPEqr](http://goo.gl/uYPEqr)

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You Retweeted



OCRA Staff @Staff\_OCRA · Mar 23

Great mural restoration by Sheridan Main Street #INMyMainStreet  
#OCRAontheGO -JV



4 3 1 111 \*\*\*



## Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs

Published by Jacie Shoaf [?]- April 11 at 1:12pm · [Reply](#)

Do you know how your community can engage with OCRA to become a part of their Indiana Main Street Program? Visit <http://www.in.gov/ocra/2500.htm> and find out how you can collaborate with local citizens to revitalize your downtown area! #MainStreetMonday.



### OCRA: Becoming a Main Street Community

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## Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs

Published by gschomacker@ocra.in.gov [?]- April 7 at 2:17pm · [Reply](#)

Lt. Governor Eric Holcomb announced the Downtown Enhancement Grant (DEG) recipients! The Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs' program is designed to improve the local quality of life, spur economic development and advance avenues for increasing private investment and employment in downtown areas.

Congratulations to the following communities:

- City of Aurora: Main Street Aurora
- City of Columbia City: Columbia City Main Street Association
- City of Peru: ReDiscover Downtown Peru
- City of Seymour: Seymour Main Street, Indiana
- Town of Veedersburg: Veedersburg Revitalization Association
- Town of Vevay: Vevay Main Street

"Indiana's rural cities and towns are every day developing vibrant main streets that welcome new businesses, visitors, and residents, and the Downtown Enhancement Grant program helps fuel those important efforts," said Holcomb. "I commend each Spring recipient for their collaborations at the state and local levels. Together, we can ensure our hometowns are thriving as attractive places to live, work, and play."

Learn more at <http://goo.gl/Tna0lt>

### Lt. Governor Holcomb Announces Downtown Enhancement Grant Recipients

Indianapolis Today, Lt. Governor Eric Holcomb announced the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA) awarded six communities funding for economic development initiatives through their Downtown Enhancement Grant (DEG) program. The Cities of Aurora, Columbia City, Seymour, Peru and the Tow...

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OCRA is an agency within the Office of the [Lt. Governor's Family of](#)

## **Business.**

*The Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs works with local, state and national partners to provide resources and technical assistance to aid communities in shaping and achieving their vision for economic development.*

Follow us on [Twitter](#), like us on [Facebook](#).  
*Inquiries should be directed to [ocracommunications@ocra.in.gov](mailto:ocracommunications@ocra.in.gov)*